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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

OVERTIME, CANCELED HOLIDAYS
PLAGUE MACHINE-TOOL BUILDERS

Many plants of the Ministry of Machine-Tool Building are not working according to standards of Soviet industry. They do not fulfill their daily norms even half way. A considerable number of workers idle away part of their time. Last-minute speedup, overtime, and postponement of workers' days off are permitted in violation of labor legislation.

The Serpukhov Plant imeni 8 let Oktyabrya puts out 92-95 percent of its basic products during the last 10 days of the month. Here, too, days off are postponed and as a disguise for overtime, workers are given "bonuses" for every machine assembled.

At the Chimkent Plant, which is lagging, workers are praised for working overtime, but those who work at a steady pace are unrewarded.

Laxness on the part of the ministry is responsible for the violation of labor legislation in the plants. Among other things, there is a decree, No 25, dated 31 January 1950, "On the Implementation of Labor Legislation concerning Working Time and Rest in plants of the Ministry of Machine-Tool Building," which defines the conditions under which days off may be postponed. On the basis of this decree, Minister Kostousov delegated to the chiefs of the main administrations the right to decide postponement in the case of "groups of workers"; the right of postponement affecting whole plants was given to the ministry.

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Taking advantage of this decree, various main administration chiefs not only authorized the postponement of days off, but in some cases even canceled these days. Karpov, chief of Glavstanko-instrument (Main Administration of Machine-Tool and Tool Production) authorized the directors of the Srednevolzhskiy Machine-Tool Plant and the Moscow Internal Grinder Plant to make such postponements. In turn, the directors, feeling that they had the support of the chiefs and the minister in the matter, proceeded to violate the law.

A number of facts tend to prove that Minister Kostousov has no regard for the opinion of trade unions. For example, the Central Committee of the Machine-Tool Workers' Trade Union demanded that the ministry repeal the point concerning the postponement of days off in decree No 25. However, the ministry defended this illegal point in the decree, basing its stand on individual stipulations contained in the decision of 10 February 1944 of the Plenum of the Supreme Court USSR, which at that time applied to a particular case and were no longer of any practical importance. At the end of January the presidium of the trade union's central committee requested the ministry to call to order the director of the Plant imeni 8 let Oktyabrya, who was consistently violating labor legislation. The ministry made no reply. Last February, the presidium made a similar request with reference to the situation at the Tashkent Tool Plant. To this, too, the ministry failed to reply.

Recently, the violations of labor legislation occurring in the ministry were discussed in the Secretariat of the VTsSPS (All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions), which condemned this practice and demanded that the ministry annul Decree No 25. The ministry finally complied.

Annulment of the decree, however, did not solve all basic production problems. Plants continue to work at a spasmodic rate, with last-minute speed-up. Fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plan must not depend on overtime work, but on improved organization of labor, more effective use of equipment, and overcoming supply difficulties. -- A. Shcherbakov

Trud, No 100, 27 Apr 50

Twelve days have passed since the above article was published; however, the staff of the Ministry of Machine-Tool Building is maintaining stubborn silence. It does not consider it necessary to discuss the article or to inform the public as to what measures have been taken in regard to violations of labor legislation or improvement of organization of labor and production at enterprises.

The ministerial staff, instead of openly acknowledging its mistakes, has decided to ignore all criticism. It appears that the Ministry of Machine-Tool Building has no great esteem for criticism or self-criticism.

NEW CENTRIFUGE SAVES OIL -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 110, 10 May 50

At the instigation of specialists of the Automobile and Tractor Electrical Equipment Plant No 2, the automatic machine tool shop has put a new unit into operation. This is a centrifuge attached to the machine tools which serves to crush the shavings.

In the machining process, parts are bathed with oil. Previously, tons of oil went into waste products along with the shavings. Now the shavings are collected at the machine tools and loaded into the bin of the centrifuge. The motor is turned on, and a pail which is placed underneath the machine is filled within a few minutes. Every day the shop collects about 80 liters of oil.

Previously, the shop had to remove mountains of shavings. Now, after being processed in the centrifuge, the shavings are tightly compressed, and take up little space.

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FORMING REPLACES CASTING IN MANUFACTURE OF BEARING CAGES -- Sovetskaya Moldaviya, No 10, 19 Apr 50

New-design bearings for tractors have been perfected at the Kharkov Ball Bearing Plant. The cages for these bearings are formed rather than cast, which saves a great deal of nonferrous metal and the cost per item is cut 30 percent.

PNEUMATIC CLAMPS SPEED UP WORK -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 93, 19 Apr 50

A pneumatic clamp for milling and planing machines has been developed by Tarakanchikov at the Mashinostroitel' Plant of the Ministry of Transportation. These clamps considerably speed up the process of installing and removing work pieces. At present, this innovator is working on pneumatic chucks for machining large parts on planing and boring machines and vertical lathes.

INVENTION, SUGGESTIONS SAVE RUBLES -- Vechernyaya Moskva, No 97, 24 Apr 50

A young worker at the Kalibr Plant has invented an attachment for automatic machine-tool stoppage in milling ratchets for micrometer screws (mikrovint). This device makes the milling operation easier, decreases rejects, improves quality, and lowers production costs.

I. N. Tararyshkina, a lathe operator, suggested that the draw-in attachment be placed closer to her machine. This increased labor productivity and is saving 15,000 rubles per year.

Serafima Kuntsevich suggested rearranging the position of machine tools to make it possible for one operator to service several machines. This saves 20,000 rubles per year.

PRODUCE MORE PARTS ON AUTOMATIC MACHINE TOOLS -- Leningradskaya Pravda, No 101, 28 Apr 50

Four years ago only 2 percent of all parts were manufactured on automatic machine tools at the Leningrad Tool Plant. Last year, 65 percent of all parts were manufactured on these machines; in the near future, this figure will be raised to 86 percent. The automatics turn, cut, shave, grind and even sort complex parts of tools.

MACHINE-TOOL PLANT MAKES FARM MACHINERY -- Krasnaya Zvezda, No 106, 5 May 50

With the output of a new-design vertical drilling machine ahead of schedule, the Orsla Krasnyy borets Plant completed its postwar Five-Year Plan. Assembly of machine tools for 1951 began today.

In addition to its basic products, this plant is producing agricultural machinery. The first hundred sowing machines for planting kok-saghyz have been manufactured and have already been shipped to various kolkhozes.

REDUCE FLAWS, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY IN FOUNDRY -- Sovetskaya Belorussiya, No 87, 30 Apr 50

The foundry of the Minsk Machine-Tool Building Plant had increased its output of castings 40 percent by the end of 1948.

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Many casting flaws were eliminated by pouring the casting in several fine streams instead of the single flow and by using special coolers for parts of complex structure. Gas bubbles presented a special problem. Formation of gas was avoided by taking care that flasks were not too large, by taking precautions against the use of excessively thick mold facings, and by insuring sufficiently rapid pouring. The measures taken to combat flaws raised labor productivity 15-20 percent.

In producing castings of complex design and irregular contour, sectional patterns must be used which increase the chances that flaws might occur. In making the molds, therefore, the foremen are very careful to insure that the walls of the mold are smooth and of uniform thickness and that cores are used only when absolutely necessary.

All these measures have contributed toward raising the foundry's productivity 230 percent as compared with 1947 while employing the same number of workers and the same working area.

Formerly, molders lost at least a half hour in preparatory work before starting the molds. Now, special workers arrive at the working area 2 hours before the shift begins and set up the patterns, arrange the molding equipment, and prepare the facing mixture so that the molders can begin work immediately upon arrival at the machines. This has increased labor productivity 25-30 percent.

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